

**Ellis, Alex**

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Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/21/2021 5:18:00 PM  
**From:** Ellis, Alex  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 20, 2021 12:58 PM  
**To:** editor@usnews.com  
**Subject:** Response letter from the Bangladesh Embassy

Greetings,

Please consider publishing the below response letter from Ferdousi Shahriar, the Deputy Chief of Mission for the Embassy of Bangladesh, Washington D.C.

The Associated Press article "[Bangladesh arrests journalist known for unearthing graft](#)" (May 18) by Julhas Alam and published by U.S. News & World Report mischaracterizes the arrest of Rozina Islam and misstates Bangladesh's attitude toward the press.

Freedom of speech is a constitutionally guaranteed right in Bangladesh. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the government has redoubled its support for a free and independent media. The reason: Journalists have served as frontline fighters by supplying vital information to the public as well as accountability. Unfortunately, this increased reliance on the press has occasionally been abused. Legal authorities have no choice but to arrest people who appear to have run afoul of the law as was the case with Rozina Islam.

Islam was found in possession of confidential and sensitive government documents, including illegally-photographed images of materials she found in a government office. Islam was appropriately arrested for doing so, but was not abused or mistreated in any way. She was cared for by female officials who looked after her physical and psychological well-being.

To ensure that the investigation about her actions is fair and independent, the Bangladesh government has formed a three-member committee to look into the incident. The government is not persecuting a journalist but rather is upholding the rule of law in this case.

Sincerely,  
Ferdousi Shahriar  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
Embassy of Bangladesh  
Washington, D.C.

*This material is distributed by BGR Government Affairs, LLC on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Embassy. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.*

Alex Ellis  
Senior Associate  
[BGR Public Relations](#)

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**Ellis, Alex**

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Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/21/2021 5:18:00 PM  
**From:** Ellis, Alex  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 20, 2021 1:02 PM  
**To:** letters@sduniontribune.com  
**Subject:** Response letter from the Embassy of Bangladesh

Greetings,

Please consider publishing the below response letter from Ferdousi Shahriar, the Deputy Chief of Mission for the Embassy of Bangladesh, Washington D.C.

The Associated Press article "[Bangladesh arrests journalist known for unearthing graft](#)" (May 18) by Julhas Alam and published by The San Diego Union-Tribune mischaracterizes the arrest of Rozina Islam and misstates Bangladesh's attitude toward the press.

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Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/21/2021 5:18:00 PM  
**From:** Ellis, Alex  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 20, 2021 1:06 PM  
**To:** citydesk@seattlepi.com  
**Subject:** Response letter from the Embassy of Bangladesh

Greetings,

Please consider publishing the below response letter from Ferdousi Shahriar, the Deputy Chief of Mission for the Embassy of Bangladesh, Washington D.C.

The Associated Press article "[Bangladesh arrests journalist known for unearthing graft](#)" (May 18) by Julhas Alam and published by The Seattle Post-Intelligencer mischaracterizes the arrest of Rozina Islam and misstates Bangladesh's attitude toward the press.

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**Ellis, Alex**

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Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/21/2021 5:18:00 PM  
**From:** Ellis, Alex  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 20, 2021 1:08 PM  
**To:** letters@seattletimes.com  
**Subject:** Response letter from the Embassy of Bangladesh

Greetings,

Please consider publishing the below response letter from Ferdousi Shahriar, the Deputy Chief of Mission for the Embassy of Bangladesh, Washington D.C.

The Associated Press article "[Bangladesh arrests journalist known for unearthing graft](#)" (May 18) by Julhas Alam and published by The Seattle Times mischaracterizes the arrest of Rozina Islam and misstates Bangladesh's attitude toward the press.

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Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/21/2021 5:18:00 PM  
**From:** Ellis, Alex  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 20, 2021 1:11 PM  
**To:** letters@nhregister.com  
**Subject:** Response letter from the Embassy of Bangladesh

Greetings,

Please consider publishing the below response letter from Ferdousi Shahriar, the Deputy Chief of Mission for the Embassy of Bangladesh, Washington D.C.

The Associated Press article "[Bangladesh arrests journalist known for unearthing graft](#)" (May 18) by Julhas Alam and published by The New Haven Register mischaracterizes the arrest of Rozina Islam and misstates Bangladesh's attitude toward the press.

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Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/21/2021 5:18:00 PM  
**From:** Ellis, Alex  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 20, 2021 1:16 PM  
**To:** news.tips@abc.com; editor@abcnews.com  
**Subject:** Response letter from the Embassy of Bangladesh

Greetings,

Please consider publishing the below response letter from Ferdousi Shahriar, the Deputy Chief of Mission for the Embassy of Bangladesh, Washington D.C.

The Associated Press article "[Bangladesh arrests journalist known for unearthing graft](#)" (May 18) by Julhas Alam and published by ABC News mischaracterizes the arrest of Rozina Islam and misstates Bangladesh's attitude toward the press.

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Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/21/2021 5:18:00 PM  
**From:** Ellis, Alex  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 20, 2021 1:18 PM  
**To:** khessling@hearstnp.com  
**Subject:** Response letter from the Embassy of Bangladesh

Greetings,

Please consider publishing the below response letter from Ferdousi Shahriar, the Deputy Chief of Mission for the Embassy of Bangladesh, Washington D.C.

The Associated Press article "[Bangladesh arrests journalist known for unearthing graft](#)" (May 18) by Julhas Alam and published by Midland Daily News mischaracterizes the arrest of Rozina Islam and misstates Bangladesh's attitude toward the press.

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Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/21/2021 5:18:00 PM  
**From:** Ellis, Alex  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 20, 2021 1:35 PM  
**To:** agraff@sfgate.com  
**Subject:** Response letter from the Embassy of Bangladesh

Greetings,

Please consider publishing the below response letter from Ferdousi Shahriar, the Deputy Chief of Mission for the Embassy of Bangladesh, Washington D.C.

The Associated Press article "[Bangladesh arrests journalist known for unearthing graft](#)" (May 18) by Julhas Alam and published by SFGate mischaracterizes the arrest of Rozina Islam and misstates Bangladesh's attitude toward the press.

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**Ellis, Alex**

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Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/21/2021 5:18:00 PM  
**From:** Ellis, Alex  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 20, 2021 1:37 PM  
**To:** letters@inquirer.com  
**Subject:** Response letter from the Embassy of Bangladesh

Greetings,

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The Associated Press article "[Bangladesh arrests journalist known for unearthing graft](#)" (May 18) by Julhas Alam and published by The Philadelphia Inquirer mischaracterizes the arrest of Rozina Islam and misstates Bangladesh's attitude toward the press.

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**Ellis, Alex**

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Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/21/2021 5:18:00 PM  
**From:** Ellis, Alex  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 20, 2021 1:39 PM  
**To:** jgnews@jg.net  
**Subject:** Response letter from the Embassy of Bangladesh

Greetings,

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**Ellis, Alex**

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Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/21/2021 5:18:00 PM  
**From:** Ellis, Alex  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 20, 2021 1:40 PM  
**To:** viewpoints@chron.com  
**Subject:** Response letter from the Embassy of Bangladesh

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The Associated Press article "[Bangladesh arrests journalist known for unearthing graft](#)" (May 18) by Julhas Alam and published by The Houston Chronicle mischaracterizes the arrest of Rozina Islam and misstates Bangladesh's attitude toward the press.

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**From:** Ellis, Alex  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 20, 2021 1:42 PM  
**To:** letters@washpost.com  
**Subject:** Response letter from the Embassy of Bangladesh

Greetings,

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The Associated Press article "[Bangladesh arrests journalist known for unearthing graft](#)" (May 18) by Julhas Alam and published by The Washington Post mischaracterizes the arrest of Rozina Islam and misstates Bangladesh's attitude toward the press.

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Received by NSD/FARA Registration Unit 05/21/2021 5:18:00 PM  
**From:** Ellis, Alex  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 20, 2021 1:50 PM  
**To:** cfeldman@ap.org; jpace@ap.org  
**Subject:** Response letter from the Embassy of Bangladesh

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Please consider publishing the below response letter from Ferdousi Shahriar, the Deputy Chief of Mission for the Embassy of Bangladesh, Washington D.C.

The Associated Press article "[Bangladesh arrests journalist known for unearthing graft](#)" (May 18) by Julhas Alam mischaracterizes the arrest of Rozina Islam and misstates Bangladesh's attitude toward the press.

Freedom of speech is a constitutionally guaranteed right in Bangladesh. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the government has redoubled its support for a free and independent media. The reason: Journalists have served as frontline fighters by supplying vital information to the public as well as accountability. Unfortunately, this increased reliance on the press has occasionally been abused. Legal authorities have no choice but to arrest people who appear to have run afoul of the law as was the case with Rozina Islam.

Islam was found in possession of confidential and sensitive government documents, including illegally-photographed images of materials she found in a government office. Islam was appropriately arrested for doing so, but was not abused or mistreated in any way. She was cared for by female officials who looked after her physical and psychological well-being.

To ensure that the investigation about her actions is fair and independent, the Bangladesh government has formed a three-member committee to look into the incident. The government is not persecuting a journalist but rather is upholding the rule of law in this case.

Sincerely,  
Ferdousi Shahriar  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
Embassy of Bangladesh  
Washington, D.C.

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